

Smarter City Initiative in Dubuque

IBM and Dubuque, a city of 60,000 in northeast Iowa, have announced plans to partner in the development of new “smarter” technologies and implementation strategies to create a model of sustainability for communities of 200,000 and under.

Over 40 percent of the U.S. population resides on communities of 200,000 or under.

“The goal of the collaboration between IBM and Dubuque is to develop and pilot a systematic mechanism offering consumers and businesses the information necessary to make informed decisions about how they consume resources like electricity, water, natural gas and oil,” said Robert Morris, vice president, IBM Research.

New technologies are capable of digitizing city systems data, integrating and analyzing it to allow the city to respond to the service needs of the citizens. IBM and the city of Dubuque, along with future partners, will revitalize the city’s systems to become smarter and more efficient in order to meet the city’s vision for sustainability.

“The results of this partnership will give people tools that can change how they impact the world,” said Governor Chet Culver. “The State of Iowa is proud to partner in this undertaking and contribute to our global sustainability efforts.”



Genencor Expansions in Cedar Rapids

Genencor, a division of Danisco, has officially opened the doors on its new Grain Processing Applied Innovation Center, which is a 20,000 sq. ft. world-class facility in Cedar Rapids. Governor Chet Culver joined executives of Danisco and its Genencor division at the ribbon cutting ceremony. The event also marked the recent expansion of Genencor’s adjacent 140,000-square-foot enzyme manufacturing plant.

“I want to commend Genencor for their efforts to put Iowans to work, through this additional 52-million-dollar expansion in Cedar Rapids,” said Governor Culver. “This is proof positive that good things are happening in Iowa in terms of job creation and economic growth. Genencor chose our state for reasons we are all familiar with: our high quality of life and our excellent work ethic. I’m happy to see this company grow in Iowa.”

“This facility represents our tremendous commitment to fuel ethanol producers and carbohydrates processors,” said Danisco CEO, Tom Knutzen. “We announced this investment more than a year ago, and today we’re joining our customers, employees and supporters to celebrate its completion.”

The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded Genencor’s Applied Innovation Center \$100,000 of direct financial assistance and Enterprise Zone tax benefits in 2008.

“Genencor has been an important member of the Cedar Rapids community. The new Applied Innovation Center and enzyme plant represent jobs in our community, and we see a lot of potential for that to grow,” says Mark Seckman, president of Priority One, the Economic Development Division of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.



Governor Chet Culver joined Danisco CEO Tom Knutzen, Genencor division senior managers and Cedar Rapids officials, to cut the ribbon at the new Applied Innovation Center in Cedar Rapids.



Waverly firm growing

A nearly \$1.2 million expansion of Carmi Flavors & Fragrance Company in Waverly will create 75 jobs. Carmi, a producer of flavorings for food and beverages, plans to build a 24,000 sq. ft. building to be used for shipping, receiving and warehousing.

The Economic Development Board awarded the project \$150,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVFAP) to create 33 of the new jobs and retain nine existing jobs.



Carmi is introducing Soytrato, a non-dairy Italian-style gelato made with all-natural soy, and is distributing a new machine that dispenses the Soytrato soft-serve ice cream.

The Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVFAP) replaces several previous Iowa Department of Economic Development financial programs while retaining the ability to finance expanding businesses, early stage entrepreneurs, infrastructure, value-added agriculture and business recovery from natural disasters.

H.J. Heinz upgrades Muscatine & Cedar Rapids

Nearly \$14 million will be invested to upgrade the manufacturing campus in Muscatine where H. J. Heinz sauces, mustard and ketchup are produced. The project involves replacing equipment used on the gray line and demolishing and reconstructing one building to maintain the competitiveness of the plant.

The Economic Development Board approved the Muscatine renovations for Enterprise Zone tax benefits. The project will retain 66 jobs. Over 470 people are employed at the facility in Muscatine where the company first opened a plant in 1893.



H. J. Heinz is planning to expand and remodel shipping and receiving areas at the Heinz soup and entrees plant in Cedar Rapids, which was formerly owned by Quality Chef. Upwards of \$2 million will be invested to remodel the plant to handle increased production of condensed soup, adding two jobs.

The Economic Development Board approved the Cedar Rapids project for High Quality Jobs Program tax benefits. About 124 people are employed at the former Quality Chef plant now owned by Heinz in Cedar Rapids.

DIAMOND V OPENS \$25 MILLION PLANT



Diamond V, the world's leading supplier of fermented ingredients for animal health, has opened a second manufacturing facility in Cedar Rapids. The \$25 million, 64,000 sq. ft. plant, will help the company keep pace with growing demand for its proprietary products and increase its ability to bring innovations to the marketplace.

John Bloomhall, Diamond V president and CEO, said "We're one of the few companies in our industry with Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification in our plants. We believe very strongly in the safety of the food supply." The new facility was built with the latest technology to enhance product consistency, automation and control.

Diamond V's other plant was damaged by floods last year but was back in operation again in eight and half days. The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) awarded the company \$435,000 for flood recovery costs after the Iowa-headquartered company suffered more than \$6 million in damages.

A Diamond V subsidiary, Embria Health Sciences, received IDED assistance in 2007 when it built a new corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility in Ankeny to produce human nutrition products.

"The completion of this second manufacturing facility demonstrates our commitment and leadership in the industry," said John Bloomhall, Diamond V's President & CEO.



Plan to convert West Union plant

Custom Poultry Processing plans to buy the former Atwood plant in West Union and convert it into a modern USDA poultry harvesting, processing and packaging facility. The new company is comprised of Duane Bushman, Stacy Bushman, Chad Bushman, and Greg DeWeese and their spouses.

The Economic Development Board has awarded the new company \$350,000 from the value-added agricultural component of the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance

Program (GIVEFAP) and Enterprise Zone tax benefits.

The currently vacant facilities comprise 190,200 sq. ft. on a 29-acre site along Highway 150 at the edge of West Union.

At full capacity, Custom Poultry will process more than 14 million chickens per year and employ 126 people, targeting specialty market segments with both private label processing and its own brand.

Consolidation saves jobs in Mount Pleasant

Hearth & Home Technologies plans to consolidate distribution centers from Illinois and Minnesota in the state of Iowa, creating seven jobs and retaining 141 jobs at the Mount Pleasant facility.

The Economic Development Board awarded the consolidation plan \$445,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVEFAP). The City of Mount Pleasant, Henry County, and the Mount Pleasant Area Development Commission are contributing another \$88,000 to the project.

Hearth & Home is the nation's leading manufacturer of fireplaces and stoves. The Heatilator brand is manufactured at the Mount Pleasant facility.



NEW BREW IN NORTHEAST IOWA

Hub City Brewing Company wants to move into regional markets and increase production at its micro-brewery in Stanley, which is located in Fayette County.

The nine-month project would expand the marketing of Hub City beer to consumers in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin through additional wholesale distributors and retail stores.

In support of the project, the Economic Development Board awarded Hub City \$115,000 from the Entrepreneurial Component of the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVEFAP).



Award to Menlo biomass project

SynGest Menlo LLC was awarded \$2 million in value added agriculture funding and Enterprise Zone tax benefits to build a demonstration facility to convert corn cobs into anhydrous ammonia fertilizer. The Iowa Department of Economic Development awards apply to 34 of the 40 jobs that will be created in Guthrie County. SynGest Menlo plans a more than \$96-million capital investment.

The state money will be disbursed when the start-up company succeeds with other fundraising, including an application for \$50 million from the U.S. Department of Energy.

As planned, the unique operation - the first of its kind in the nation - could convert 130,000 tons of corn cobs purchased from local farmers into 50,000 tons of anhydrous ammonia annually.

Bettendorf success in robotics

Vizient LLC is planning a nearly \$1 million expansion in Bettendorf to accommodate growth in robotic integration, design and manufacture of industrial automation equipment.

The Economic Development Board approved \$70,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVEFAP) and tax benefits from the High Quality Job Program (HQJP) for Vizient to create 15 jobs and retain six jobs as part of the expansion.

Vizient expects the project, which adds 4,400 sq. ft. of design and R&D offices and results in additional production space, to be completed in March of next year.

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Using Iowa Demonstration Fund, Ames firm readies new software

WebFilings LLC of Ames, was awarded \$150,000 from the Iowa Demonstration Fund for software to assist publicly-traded companies with new requirements for digital tags on financial data filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A new set of tools and services will be needed for this regulatory compliance.

WebFilings' award from the Economic Development Board covers software testing, marketing plan refinement and the product launch. The award was recommended by the Technology & Commercialization review committee.

The Iowa Demonstration Fund assists companies in targeted industries of biosciences, information technology and advanced manufacturing with the commercialization of innovations. For more information, contact Doug Lewis at the Iowa Department of Economic Development, Innovation Division & Commercialization Division, 515.725.3195.

H.A. PHILLIPS GOING INTO BLOOMFIELD SHELL BUILDING

An existing shell building is the key to Bloomfield's success in attracting a new manufacturer from Illinois with plans to invest nearly \$1.3 million to finish the 22,500 sq. ft. building and create 13 new jobs fabricating refrigeration equipment.

H.A. Phillips & Co. proposes to move the welded products department from South Elgin, Illinois to the southern Iowa building. To assist in recruiting the new industry, the Economic Development Board awarded the company \$50,000 from the Grow Iowa Values Financial Assistance Program (GIVFAP) tied to 11 of the new jobs in Bloomfield.

The company expects to begin operations next March and be in full operation next year by the end of June. H.A. Phillips needs additional manufacturing capacity to meet customer delivery dates for industrial refrigeration products sold worldwide.

